Liberty, Va.
Oct. 19, 1871

Prof. A. Gray;

Dear Sir - I have just rec'd from the vicinity of Jacksonville, Fla., a couple of specimens which I forward, thinking that one or both may interest you. One I take to be a form of Sida Lindheimeri & the other Bletia verecunda. I am confident that Bletia aphylla has leaves, but cannot now prove it. Summer before last I found two specimens of it in fl., & so I came to know its peculiar coralline roots. Late in the fall I found quite a patch of what looked precisely like the leaves of Asplenium, but on digging for its roots I found them to be identical with those of Bletia. Last summer

I searched for them but found not a sign of any. on the 4th of Nov. I will look again, & if found will preserve specimens & roots.

You may perhaps remember that I sent you the foliage of a wonderful tree which I found last fall. You guessed it to be Liriodendron; Prof. Porter, Rhexia; & I Azalea. This year it made a very faint attempt at flowering sufficient to show that it was an Liriodendron (with linear-lanceolate leaves). Its buds, as you observed, are like those of Liriodendron, & its germination (like Azalea, too) convinced me I had the best chance to judge, & saw that it had the Liriodendron habits, & that its foliage was remarkably like that of the Liriodendron form of Azalea undiffused. I will keep an eye on it; if it grows itself, a new var. may arise therefrom.

Mr. Sturtevant sent me a specimen of Bidens from Wytheville, which is evidently the same weed as B. cernua that I found near Alexandria.

The same party who came near lumbugging me about the Veronica Chamaedrys is now exercised about a wonderful Cucurbitaceous plant, the seed of which, he says, came from Fla. where it is given in the name of "Rock-rose seed". He says that "the internal fibrous tissue surrounding the seeds is taken out when ripe, cleaned & used as a towel". The plant is "semi-thick", with "small flo." & "exhales a rank odor". What do you think this is? Sutton a gentleman

Yours very truly

A. Gray.